Written record of fisheries consultations on 12 May 2025 between the United Kingdom and the European Union on sprat in divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel) from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

1. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement ('the TCA') between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) includes the objective of cooperating with a view to ensuring that fishing activities for shared stocks in their waters are environmentally sustainable in the long term and contribute to achieving economic and social benefits, and requires the Parties to hold consultations annually to agree the total allowable catches (TACs) for the following year for the stocks listed in Annex 35 to the TCA. English Channel sprat (SPR/7DE) is included in that Annex.

2. A Delegation from the European Union, headed by Dr Norman Graham and a Delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Imogen Cessford, met in a virtual format on 12 May 2025 to consult on fishing opportunities for English Channel sprat (SPR/7DE) from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 in accordance with Article 498 (Fishing Opportunities) of the TCA. This Written Record documents the outcome of those consultations.

3. The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2025-2026 outlined in this Written Record, including Annex 1. Accordingly, where this Written Record refers to the Delegations (or the Parties) having agreed on a matter, it should be read as an agreement to recommend to the Delegations' respective authorities to implement the arrangements in this Written Record, including Annex 1.

4. The Delegations considered the sprat stock listed in Annex 35 to the TCA and agreed to establish a total allowable catch (TAC) from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 of 5,769 tonnes. The TAC and respective Parties' quotas are shown in Annex 1.

5. The other relevant arrangements, including inter-annual quota flexibility, for jointly managed stocks in the Written Record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2025 signed on the 6th of December 2024 ("the Written Record of 6 December 2024") will continue to apply for English Channel sprat.

6. The Delegations reaffirm their commitment to implementing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management as set out in the Parties' domestic legislation and in regional and international agreements. The Delegations note the ecological significance of forage fish species such as sprat, Norway pout, herring and sandeel as an important food source for seabirds, other fish species and marine mammals and that their function and role should be considered when setting fishing opportunities, guided by the best available scientific advice.

22 May 2025

Brussels

London

For the European Union

Norman GRAHAM

For the United Kingdom

Imogen CESSFORD

Annex 1

Code	Common Name (Scientific name)	ICES areas	Agreed Total Allowable Catch (tonnes)	UK TCA TAC share (%)	UK TCA quota (tonnes)	UK Transfer to/from EU (tonnes)	UK post-transfer quota (tonnes)	EU TCA TAC share (%)	EU TCA quota (tonnes)	EU Transfer to/from UK (tonnes)	EU post-transfer quota (tonnes)
SPR/7DE	Sprat (English Channel) *(Sprattus sprattus)*	7d and 7e	5,769(1)	84.00%(2)	4,846	No transfer	4,846	16.00%(2)	923	No transfer	923

(1) TAC may only be fished from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
(2) TAC splits for 2025 and 2026 in the TCA.